

TASMANIAN INTERTIDAL MOLLUSCA

By RON. C. KERSHAW*

(Abstract)

Study of the Tasmanian Mollusca reveals several aspects of species constitution, of affinity, and ecology, which seems to support the conclusions of other workers dealing with general ecology and with relationships. Thus the mollusca are part of an ecological unit, the basis of which is ecological rather than faunal with affinities for areas of similar latitude probably discernable. The mollusca are also, in general, part of a Southern Australian faunal entity extending to New South Wales and southern Western Australia, yet with individuality, even a note of Neozelanic affinity.

Thus the fauna is identified in this work as a Tasmanian fauna, despite the obvious relationships with the Peronian on the one hand and the Flindersian on the other. In the past, workers have found evidence of these influences which led to the association of East Coast, Tasmania, with the Peronian, and North Coast, Tasmania, with the Flindersian. These ideas are not here denied, rather they are modified. The North Coast has distinct resemblances to the mainland, particularly to Victoria, but it has also strong Tasmanian influences which should not be denied. Collections made on the West Coast suggest that this coast is also Tasmanian in faunal constitution. Thus it is concluded that the features of the faunal constitution on these shores are due more particularly to ecological factors than otherwise. Accordingly, the suggestion made by recent workers that the term "Maugean Region" be extended to include all of Tasmania, as well as Victoria in part, is favoured herein.

Brief reference is made to the migrations of the fauna in relation to Bass Strait. The molluscan fauna of various parts of the shore is described. The constitution of the fauna of the various coasts is described, with some general reference to animals other than the mollusca, also found on these shores, which have ecological associations.

Bass Strait is regarded as a faunal "cross-roads" where there are many influences. This should not be overlooked.

(This work, with references, is to be published in full at a later date.—Editor.)

* Honorary Associate in Malacology, Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, Tasmania.